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CLAIMS

1. A process for presenting interactive program guide information to a user, comprising the steps of:

10   providing a program guide area;

wherein said program guide area is semi-transparent and overlays the broadcast program that the user is currently watching, allowing the user to see the progress of the broadcast program;

receiving user command input;

15   displaying a first column in said program guide area;

said first column displays the available program channels in a rotating endless channel list;

wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said channel list;

displaying a second column in said program guide area;

20   said second column displays the program list for a specific channel; and

wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said program list.

2. The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

highlighting an element in a column; and

25   said highlight step is responsive to a user's commands.

3. The process of claim 2, wherein said highlight step displays a highlight bar to highlight an element.

30 4. The process of claim 2, wherein said second column displays the program list for a channel highlighted by the user.

5. The process of claim 2, wherein whispering arrows are displayed when information exists in the indicated direction and wherein information is more detailed

35 as the highlight is moved to the right.

6. The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

displaying a start time above said first column; and

wherein said start time is modifiable by the user.

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7. The process of claim 6, wherein said channel list comprises channel numbers, channel IDs and the name of the program playing during said start time on each channel number.

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8. The process of claim 6, wherein said second column displays programs for the selected channel starting from said start time.

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9. The process of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
    displaying a description of a program highlighted by the user in said program guide area.

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10. The process of claim 9, wherein said program description is displayed above said first and said second columns in said program guide area.

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11. The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
    displaying the channel number and ID above said second column; and
    wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

15   14

12. The process of claim 11, wherein said channel list follows the user's channel selections, scrolling backward or forward in said channel list.

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13. The process of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
    displaying the channel number and ID above said second column; and
    wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

9   8

14. The process of claim 13, wherein said program list changes to the programs associated with the channel number highlighted by the user, starting at the time indicated above said first column.

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15. The process of claim 1, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name, said program list is in descending order from the most recent time to the latest time.

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16. The process of claim 1, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name and continues the intermediate time intervals by listing each half, quarter hour, or selectable intervals, and wherein the duration of each

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5   program is displayed using an indicator extending from the program start time down
     to the program end time.

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17.   The process of claim 2, wherein the user highlights a program in said second
column and moves said highlight to the right to obtain a detailed information screen
10   for said program.

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18.   A process for presenting interactive program guide information to a user,
comprising the steps of:
     providing a program guide area;
15   wherein said program guide area is semi-transparent and overlays the
broadcast program that the user is currently watching, allowing the user to see the
progress of the broadcast program;
          receiving user command input;
          displaying a first column in said program guide area;
20   said first column displays channel sorting methods available to the user;
          displaying a second column in said program guide area;
          said second column displays the available program channels in a rotating
endless channel list; and
          wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said channel list.
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19.   The process of claim 18, further comprising the step of:
          displaying a third column in said program guide area;
          said third column displays the program list for a specific channel; and
          wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said program list.

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B2/20.   The process of claim 19, wherein two columns are displayed at a time.

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21.   The process of claim 19, wherein said first column and said second column
are displayed in said program guide area.

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B1/22.   The process of claims 18 or 19, further comprising the step of:
          highlighting an element in a column; and
          said highlight step is responsive to a user's commands.

5   ~~23~~ 22.   The process of claim ~~22~~ 21, wherein said second column displays the available channels that correspond to the sorting method highlighted by the user.

~~24~~ 23.   The process of claim ~~22~~ 21, wherein the user moves the highlight to the right of said second column to display said second and said third columns in said program
10   guide area.

~~25~~ 24.   The process of claim ~~22~~ 21, wherein said highlight step displays a highlight bar to highlight an element.

15   ~~26~~ 25.   The process of claim ~~22~~ 21, wherein said third column displays the program list for a channel highlighted by the user.

~~27~~ 26.   The process of claim ~~22~~ 21, wherein whispering arrows are displayed when information exists in the indicated direction and wherein information is more detailed
20   as the highlight is moved to the right.

Sub B4/

28.   The process of claims 18 or 19, further comprising the step of:
       displaying a start time above said second column; and
       wherein said start time is modifiable by the user.

25   ~~29~~ 33.   The process of claim ~~28~~ 32, wherein said channel list comprises channel numbers, channel IDs and the name of the program playing during said start time on each channel number.

~~30~~ 34.   The process of claim ~~28~~ 32, wherein said third column displays programs for the
30   selected channel starting from said start time.

~~31~~ 27.   The process of claim ~~22~~ 21, further comprising the step of:
       displaying a description of a program highlighted by the user in said program
35   guide area.

~~32~~ 28.   The process of claim ~~31~~ 27, wherein said program description is displayed in the upper portion of said program guide area.

Sub B5/
40   33.   The process of claim 19, further comprising the step of:

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5   displaying the channel number and ID above said third column; and

wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

36
34.   The process of claim 35, wherein said channel list follows the user's channel

selections, scrolling backward or forward in said channel list.

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35.   The process of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

displaying the channel number and ID above said third column; and

wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

30
15   36.   The process of claim 29, wherein said program list changes to the programs

associated with the channel number highlighted by the user, starting at the time

indicated above said first column.

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37.   The process of claim 19, wherein said program list lists the start time of each

20   program next to the program name, said program list is in descending order from the

most recent time to the latest time.

38.   The process of claim 19, wherein said program list lists the start time of each

program next to the program name and continues the intermediate time intervals b y

25   listing each half, quarter hour, or selectable intervals, and wherein the duration of each

program is displayed using an indicator extending from the program start time down

to the program end time.

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39.   The process of claim 21, wherein the user highlights a program in said third

30   column and moves said highlight to the right to obtain a detailed information screen

for said program.

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40.   An apparatus for presenting interactive program guide information to a user,

comprising:

35   a program guide area;

wherein said program guide area is semi-transparent and overlays the

broadcast program that the user is currently watching, allowing the user to see the

progress of the broadcast program;

a module for receiving user command input;

40   a module for displaying a first column in said program guide area;

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5   said first column displays the available program channels in a rotating endless channel list;

wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said channel list;

a module for displaying a second column in said program guide area;

said second column displays the program list for a specific channel; and

10   wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said program list.

41. [40]   The apparatus of claim 40 [39], further comprising:

a module for highlighting an element in a column; and

said highlight module is responsive to a user's commands.

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42. [41]   The apparatus of claim 41 [40], wherein said highlight module displays a highlight bar to highlight an element.

43. [42]   The apparatus of claim 41 [40], wherein said second column displays the program

20   list for a channel highlighted by the user.

44. [43]   The apparatus of claim 41 [40], wherein whispering arrows are displayed when information exists in the indicated direction and wherein information is more detailed as the highlight is moved to the right.

25

45. [49]   The apparatus of claim 40 [40], further comprising:

a module for displaying a start time above said first column; and

wherein said start time is modifiable by the user.

46. [50]   The apparatus of claim 45 [49], wherein said channel list comprises channel

30   numbers, channel IDs and the name of the program playing during said start time on each channel number.

47. [51]   The apparatus of claim 45 [49], wherein said second column displays programs

35   for the selected channel starting from said start time.

48. [44]   The apparatus of claim 44 [40], further comprising:

a module for displaying a description of a program highlighted by the user in said program guide area.

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49. The apparatus of claim 48, wherein said program description is displayed above said first and said second columns in said program guide area.

50. The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising:

a module for displaying the channel number and ID above said second column; and

wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

51. The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said channel list follows the user's channel selections, scrolling backward or forward in said channel list.

52. The apparatus of claim 41, further comprising:

a module for displaying the channel number and ID above said second column; and

wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

53. The apparatus of claim 52, wherein said program list changes to the programs associated with the channel number highlighted by the user, starting at the time indicated above said first column.

54. The apparatus of claim 40, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name, said program list is in descending order from the most recent time to the latest time.

55. The apparatus of claim 40, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name and continues the intermediate time intervals b y listing each half, quarter hour, or selectable intervals, and wherein the duration of each program is displayed using an indicator extending from the program start time down to the program end time.

56. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the user highlights a program in said second column and moves said highlight to the right to obtain a detailed information screen for said program.

57. An apparatus for presenting interactive program guide information to a user, comprising:

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5   a program guide area;

    wherein said program guide area is semi-transparent and overlays the broadcast program that the user is currently watching, allowing the user to see the progress of the broadcast program;

    a module for receiving user command input;

10   a module for displaying a first column in said program guide area;

    said first column displays channel sorting methods available to the user;

    a module for displaying a second column in said program guide area;

    said second column displays the available program channels in a rotating endless channel list; and

15   wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said channel list.

  58. The apparatus of claim 57, further comprising:

    a module for displaying a third column in said program guide area;

    said third column displays the program list for a specific channel; and

20   wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said program list.

  59. The apparatus of claim 58, wherein two columns are displayed at a time.

  60. The apparatus of claim 59, wherein said first column and said second column
25 are displayed in said program guide area.

  61. The apparatus of claims 57 or 58, further comprising:

    a module for highlighting an element in a column; and

    said highlight module is responsive to a user's commands.

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  62. The apparatus of claim 61, wherein said second column displays the available channels that correspond to the sorting method highlighted by the user.
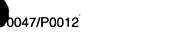
  63. The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the user moves the highlight to the right of
35 said second column to display said second and said third columns in said program guide area.

  64. The apparatus of claim 61, wherein said highlight module displays a highlight bar to highlight an element.

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5   65) [63] The apparatus of claim 64, [59] wherein said third column displays the program list for a channel highlighted by the user.

        66. [64] The apparatus of claim 64, [59] wherein whispering arrows are displayed when information exists in the indicated direction and wherein information is more detailed
10   as the highlight is moved to the right.

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Bn /67.   The apparatus of claims 57 or 58, further comprising:
            a module for displaying a start time above said second column; and
            wherein said start time is modifiable by the user.

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        68. [71] The apparatus of claim 67, [70] wherein said channel list comprises channel
        numbers, channel IDs and the name of the program playing during said start time on
        each channel number.

        69. [72] The apparatus of claim 67, [70] wherein said third column displays programs for
20   the selected channel starting from said start time.

        70. [65] The apparatus of claim 64, [59] further comprising:
            a module for displaying a description of a program highlighted by the user in
25   said program guide area.

        71. [66] The apparatus of claim 70, [65] wherein said program description is displayed in
        the upper portion of said program guide area.

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Bn /72.   The apparatus of claim 58, further comprising:
30   a module for displaying the channel number and ID above said third column;
        and
            wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

        73. [74] The apparatus of claim 72, [73] wherein said channel list follows the user's channel
35   selections, scrolling backward or forward in said channel list.

        74. [67] The apparatus of claim 64, [59] further comprising:
            a module for displaying the channel number and ID above said third column;
40   and

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5   wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

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~~76~~. The apparatus of claim ~~74~~ 67, wherein said program list changes to the programs associated with the channel number highlighted by the user, starting at the time indicated above said first column.

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BP~~76~~. The apparatus of claim 58, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name, said program list is in descending order from the most recent time to the latest time.

15   77. The apparatus of claim 58, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name and continues the intermediate time intervals b y listing each half, quarter hour, or selectable intervals, and wherein the duration of each program is displayed using an indicator extending from the program start time down to the program end time.

20   69   59
~~78~~. The apparatus of claim ~~64~~, wherein the user highlights a program in said third column and moves said highlight to the right to obtain a detailed information screen for said program.

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25 AS/79. A program storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for presenting interactive program guide information to a user, comprising the steps of:
          providing a program guide area;
          wherein said program guide area is semi-transparent and overlays the
30 broadcast program that the user is currently watching, allowing the user to see the progress of the broadcast program;
          receiving user command input;
          displaying a first column in said program guide area;
          said first column displays the available program channels in a rotating endless
35 channel list;
          wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said channel list;
          displaying a second column in said program guide area;
          said second column displays the program list for a specific channel; and
          wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said program list.

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5   80. The method of claim 79, further comprising the step of:

       highlighting an element in a column; and

       said highlight step is responsive to a user's commands.

       81. The method of claim 80, wherein said highlight step displays a highlight bar to

10   highlight an element.

       82. The method of claim 80, wherein said second column displays the program

       list for a channel highlighted by the user.

15   83. The method of claim 80, wherein whispering arrows are displayed when

       information exists in the indicated direction and wherein information is more detailed

       as the highlight is moved to the right.

       84. The method of claim 79, further comprising the step of:

20   displaying a start time above said first column; and

       wherein said start time is modifiable by the user.

       85. The method of claim 84, wherein said channel list comprises channel

       numbers, channel IDs and the name of the program playing during said start time on

25   each channel number.

       86. The method of claim 84, wherein said second column displays programs for

       the selected channel starting from said start time.

30   87. The method of claim 80, further comprising the step of:

       displaying a description of a program highlighted by the user in said program

       guide area.

       88. The method of claim 87, wherein said program description is displayed

35   above said first and said second columns in said program guide area.

       89. The method of claim 79, further comprising the step of:

       displaying the channel number and ID above said second column; and

       wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

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5   91
       90. The method of claim 89, wherein said channel list follows the user's channel selections, scrolling backward or forward in said channel list.

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       91. The method of claim 80, further comprising the step of:
10   displaying the channel number and ID above said second column; and
       wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

       85
       92. The method of claim 84, wherein said program list changes to the programs associated with the channel number highlighted by the user, starting at the time indicated above said first column.

15   92
       93. The method of claim 79, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name, said program list is in descending order from the most recent time to the latest time.

       93
20   94. The method of claim 79, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name and continues the intermediate time intervals b y listing each half, quarter hour, or selectable intervals, and wherein the duration of each program is displayed using an indicator extending from the program start time down to the program end time.

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       95. The method of claim 80, wherein the user highlights a program in said second column and moves said highlight to the right to obtain a detailed information screen for said program.

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30   Au/96. A program storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for presenting interactive program guide information to a user, comprising the steps of:
       providing a program guide area;
       wherein said program guide area is semi-transparent and overlays the
35   broadcast program that the user is currently watching, allowing the user to see the progress of the broadcast program;
       receiving user command input;
       displaying a first column in said program guide area;
       said first column displays channel sorting methods available to the user;
40   displaying a second column in said program guide area;

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5   said second column displays the available program channels in a rotating endless channel list; and

wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said channel list.

97.   The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of:

10   displaying a third column in said program guide area;

said third column displays the program list for a specific channel; and

wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said program list.

98.   The method of claim 97, wherein two columns are displayed at a time.

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99.   The method of claim 98, wherein said first column and said second column are displayed in said program guide area.

100.   The method of claims 96 or 97, further comprising the step of:

20   highlighting an element in a column; and

said highlight step is responsive to a user's commands.

101.   The method of claim 100, wherein said second column displays the available channels that correspond to the sorting method highlighted by the user.

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102.   The method of claim 100, wherein the user moves the highlight to the right of said second column to display said second and said third columns in said program guide area.

103.   The method of claim 100, wherein said highlight step displays a highlight bar to highlight an element.

104.   The method of claim 100, wherein said third column displays the program list for a channel highlighted by the user.

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105.   The method of claim 100, wherein whispering arrows are displayed when information exists in the indicated direction and wherein information is more detailed as the highlight is moved to the right.

40   106.   The method of claims 96 or 97, further comprising the step of:

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5   displaying a start time above said second column; and

wherein said start time is modifiable by the user.

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104. The method of claim 106, wherein said channel list comprises channel

numbers, channel IDs and the name of the program playing during said start time on

10   each channel number.

110.
108. The method of claim 106, wherein said third column displays programs for the

selected channel starting from said start time.

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109. The method of claim 100, further comprising the step of:

15   displaying a description of a program highlighted by the user in said program

guide area.

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110. The method of claim 109, wherein said program description is displayed in

20   the upper portion of said program guide area.

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B17   111. The method of claim 97, further comprising the step of:

displaying the channel number and ID above said third column; and

wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

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112. The method of claim 111, wherein said channel list follows the user's channel

selections, scrolling backward or forward in said channel list.

105
113. The method of claim 100, further comprising the step of:

30   displaying the channel number and ID above said third column; and

wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

106
114. The method of claim 113, wherein said program list changes to the programs

associated with the channel number highlighted by the user, starting at the time

35   indicated above said first column.

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B18   115. The method of claim 97, wherein said program list lists the start time of each

program next to the program name, said program list is in descending order from the

most recent time to the latest time.

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5   116.   The method of claim 97, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name and continues the intermediate time intervals b y listing each half, quarter hour, or selectable intervals, and wherein the duration of each program is displayed using an indicator extending from the program start time down to the program end time.

10   *107*

~~117.~~   The method of claim ~~100,~~ *97,* wherein the user highlights a program in said third column and moves said highlight to the right to obtain a detailed information screen for said program.

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